



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/016,676	12/10/2001	Yuji Igata	M2047-33	2525

7278 7590 03/25/2005

DARBY & DARBY P.C.
P. O. BOX 5257
NEW YORK, NY 10150-5257

EXAMINER

HAMZA, FARUK

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2155

DATE MAILED: 03/25/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/016,676

Applicant(s)

IGATA ET AL.

Examiner

Faruk Hamza

Art Unit

2155

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 December 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 December 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to the application filed on December 10, 2001. Claims 1-21 are now pending.

Specification

2. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. The claims are generally narrative and indefinite, failing to conform with current U.S. practice. They appear to be a literal translation into English from a foreign document and are replete with grammatical and idiomatic errors.

5. Claim 4 recites the limitation "the state" in line 7. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

6. Claim 6 recites the limitation "it" in line 24. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Humpleman et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,243,707) hereinafter referred as Humpleman, and further in view of Kim et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,473,788) hereinafter referred as Kim.

9. With respect to claim 1,

Humpleman discloses a method and system for commanding and controlling home appliance network system (Humpleman, Column 6, lines 44-50)

Humpleman explicitly doesn't teach sending identification to server and receiving service menu from server.

However, Kim in an analogous art teaches sending identification to server and receiving it by server and display menu to the client and response to the selected service from the menu. (Kim, column 7, lines 21-29; Fig. 7)

10. As to claim 1, Kim teaches,

- <Claim 1>

An appliance information transmitting/receiving method for handling information regarding an appliance between said appliance and displaying means of a customer and a server of a provider through a network, comprising:

a first step at which said server receives identifier information specifying said appliance from said appliance through said network; (Kim, column 7, lines 21-23)

a second step at which when said server receives said identifier information, a menu of provider responses is sent to said displaying means through said network; (Kim, column 7, lines 21-23; Fig. 7)

a third step at which said server receives from said displaying means through said network item information which said customer selected from said menu which is displayed by said displaying means; and (Kim, Column 8, lines 22-29)

a fourth step at which when said server receives said item information selected by said customer, processing corresponding to said item information is performed; (Kim, Column 8, lines 22-29)

at said first step, said identifier information which is received is sent by telecommunications means connected to said network and disposed in said appliance in response to a send instruction for said identifier information; and (Kim, Column 7, lines 17-23)

at said second step, said menu which is sent is structured to have a different content in accordance with said identifier information. (Kim, Fig. 7).

11. As to claim 1, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the system of Humpleman by adding functionality of remote maintenance and service that allows a user to have a system with greater portability. The incorporation of the remote maintenance and service in Humplemen would make the system versatile. (Kim, Column 1, lines 27-31).

12. As to claim 2-21 the rational given above is applied in addition Kim teaches:

- <Claim 2>

The appliance information transmitting/receiving method as set forth in claim 1, wherein at said first step, said send instruction for said identifier

information received by said server is issued by an access button disposed on said appliance is pressed. (Kim, Fig. 7, 125).

- <Claim 3>

The appliance information transmitting/receiving method as set forth in claim 1, wherein at said first step, said send instruction for said identifier information is issued by said appliance specified by said identifier information which is sent is selected from an appliance list which is displayed by said displaying means. (Kim, Fig. 7)

- <Claim 4>

The appliance information transmitting/receiving method as set forth in claim 1, wherein at said first step, said server receives information expressing the state of said appliance specified by said identifier information together with said identifier information from said appliance through said network, and said identifier information which is received and said information expressing the state of said appliance is information which is sent through said network by said telecommunications means disposed to said appliance. (Kim, Column 7, lines 49-67)

- <Claim 5>

The appliance information transmitting/receiving method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said fourth step includes:

a step at which if said item information received from said displaying means is regarding an item to request repair work, when said appliance is to be collected and repaired, said server sends a menu of collecting methods to said displaying means through said network; and (Kim, Column 13, lines 1-11)

a step at which said server receives from said displaying means through said network information regarding a collecting method selected by said customer from said menu of collecting methods displayed by said displaying means. (Kim, Fig.16).

- <Claim 6>

The appliance information transmitting/receiving method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said fourth step includes a step at which if said item information received from said displaying means is regarding an item to request repair work, when it is determined that said appliance is to be collected and repaired and said appliance is to be delivered to said provider via a third party, said server receives said identifier information regarding said appliance from a third party terminal through said network; (Kim, Column 13, lines 1-11)

a step at which when said server receives said identifier information from said third party terminal, information regarding a delivery destination of said

appliance is sent from said server to said third party terminal through said network; and (Kim, Column 4, lines 1-9; Fig. 19).

said information regarding said delivery destination of said appliance is in accordance with said identifier information received from said third party terminal. (Kim, Fig. 19).

- <Claim 7>

The appliance information transmitting/receiving method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said first step includes a step at which when said identifier information received from said appliance is unregistered, information necessary for registration is sent to said displaying means from said server through said network. (Kim, Fig. 10).

- <Claim 8>

The appliance information transmitting/receiving method as set forth in claim 1, wherein at said second step, said menu sent to said displaying means includes at least one of a telephone response request, a repair request, an operation method description request and an another menu display request. (Kim, Fig. 12).

- <Claim 9>

The appliance information transmitting/receiving method as set forth in claim 1, wherein a plurality of said appliances are disposed and connected to a LAN, and said telecommunications means of any one of said appliances is connected to said network. (Humpleman, Fig. 1; Kim, Fig. 1; Column 3, lines 10-43).

- <Claim 10>

An appliance information transmitting/receiving system for handling information regarding an appliance between said appliance and displaying means of a customer and a server of a provider through a network, wherein said appliance comprises telecommunications means which sends identifier information to said server through said network to which said telecommunications means is connected, when said telecommunications means receives a send instruction for said identifier information specifying said appliance, and (Kim, Column 7, lines 21-25)

when said server receives said identifier information, said server structures a menu of provider responses into a different content in accordance with said identifier information and sends said menu to said displaying means through said network, and when said server receives item information which is selected by said customer from said menu displayed by said displaying means, said server performs processing corresponding to said item information. (Kim, Column 9, lines 12-18).

- <Claim 11>

An appliance information transmitting/receiving system comprising an appliance of a customer installed indoors and displaying means of said customer installed indoors, wherein

said appliance comprises telecommunications means which sends identifier information to a server of a provider through a network to which said telecommunications means is connected, when said telecommunications means receives a send instruction for said identifier information specifying said appliance, (Kim, Fig. 1; Column 7, lines 21-26; lines 56-67)

said displaying means receives from said server through said network and displays a menu of provider responses which is in accordance with said identifier information, and receives from said server and displays information corresponding to item information selected by said customer from said menu which is displayed, and (Kim, Fig. 12).

said menu received by said displaying means is structured to have a different content in accordance with said identifier information. (Kim, Fig. 12).

- <Claim 12>

An appliance information transmitting/receiving system, comprising:

a server of a provider for handling information regarding an appliance of a customer through a network; and (Kim, Fig. 1)

a customer information database which manages customer information,
wherein (Humpleman, Column 12, lines 4-13)

said server receives identifier information specifying said appliance from
said appliance through said network, (Kim, Column 7, lines 21-26)

when said server receives said identifier information, said server sends a
menu of provider responses to displaying means of said customer through said
network, (Kim, Fig. 7).

said server receives from said displaying means through said network
item information selected by said customer from said menu which is displayed by
said displaying means, (Kim, Column 9, lines 1-11)

when said server receives said item information selected by said
customer, said server performs processing corresponding to said item
information, (Kim, Column 9, lines 12-18)

said identifier information which is received is information which is sent
from telecommunications means disposed to said appliance through said
network in accordance with a send instruction for said identifier information, (Kim,
Fig. 10).

said menu which is sent is structured to have a different content in
accordance with said identifier information, and (Kim, Fig. 12).

during said processing corresponding to said item information, said
customer information database is used in accordance with said item information.

(Humpleman, Column 12, lines 4-13)

- <Claim 13>

The appliance information transmitting/receiving system as set forth in claim 11, wherein said send instruction for said identifier information is issued by an access button disposed on said appliance is pressed. (Kim, Fig. 12).

- <Claim 14>

The appliance information transmitting/receiving system as set forth in claim 11, wherein said send instruction for said identifier information is issued by said appliance specified by said identifier information which is sent is selected from an appliance list which is displayed by said displaying means. (Kim, Fig. 7).

- <Claim 15>

The appliance information transmitting/receiving system as set forth in claim 11, wherein said appliance and said displaying means are structured integral with each other. (Humpleman, Fig. 1; Kim, Fig. 1).

- <Claim 16>

The appliance information transmitting/receiving system as set forth in claim 11, wherein said telecommunications means sends information expressing the state of said appliance specified by said identifier information together with

said identifier information to said server through said network. (Kim, Column 7, lines 64-67).

- <Claim 17>

The appliance information transmitting/receiving system as set forth in claim 12, wherein if said item information received from said displaying means is regarding an item to request repair work, when said appliance is to be collected and repaired, said server sends a menu of collecting methods to said displaying means through said network and receives from said displaying means through said network information regarding a collecting method selected by said customer. (Kim, Column 13, lines 1-11).

- <Claim 18>

The appliance information transmitting/receiving system as set forth in claim 12, wherein if said item information received from said displaying means is regarding an item to request repair work, when said server determines that said appliance needs to be collected and repaired and said appliance is to be delivered to said provider via a third party, said server receives said identifier information regarding said appliance from a third party terminal through said network and accordingly sends information regarding a delivery destination of said appliance to said third party terminal through said network, and (Kim, Column 13, lines 1-11)

said information regarding said delivery destination of said appliance is in accordance with said identifier information received from said third party terminal. (Kim, Fig. 19).

- <Claim 19>

The appliance information transmitting/receiving system as set forth in claim 12, wherein when said identifier information received from said appliance is unregistered, said server sends information necessary for registration to said displaying means from said server through said network. (Kim, Fig. 10).

- <Claim 20>

The appliance information transmitting/receiving system as set forth in claim 12, wherein said menu of provider responses which is sent from said server to said displaying means includes at least one of a telephone response request, a repair request, an operation method description request and an another menu display request. (Kim, Fig. 12).

- <Claim 21>

The appliance information transmitting/receiving system as set forth in claim 11, wherein a plurality of said appliances are disposed and connected to a LAN, and said telecommunications means of any one of said appliances is

connected to said network. (Humpleman, Fig. 1; Kim, Fig. 1; Column 3, lines 10-43).

Conclusion

13. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to the applicant's disclosure.

- Humpleman (U.S. Patent Number 6,005,861) discloses a Home Multimedia Network architecture.
- Ramberg et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,857,013) discloses a system and method for remotely diagnosing and repairing.
- Zou (U.S. Patent Number 6,160,796) discloses a system and method for updating device identification within a home Audio/video network.
- Bucher (U.S. Patent Number 6,678,737) discloses a Home Network Appliance and method.
- Gerszberg et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,396,531) discloses Set top integrated vision phone user interface having multiple menu hierarchies.

14. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Faruk Hamza whose telephone number is

Art Unit: 2155

571-272-7969. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hosain Alam can be reached at 571-272-3978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 886-217-9197 (toll –free).

Faruk Hamza

Patent Examiner

Group Art Unite 2155


HOSAIN ALAM
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER